

Celebrating Gertrude Stein, Feb. 22nd, 2024 – Centro Studi Americani, Rome

Speakers' Bios

- **Morning: 10.30-12.30**

Valentina Grande

Valentina Grande is a teacher and creative writer. She is also a radio conductor of literary programs such as: *Simply Salinger*, and *42 la risposta*, broadcast on Radio Onda d'Urto e Radio Città Fujiko. In 2017 she wrote *Il mio Salinger* published by BeccoGiallo Editions (later translated into French and in 2018 she published *Raymond Carver, una storia*, again for BeccoGiallo publishers. In 2020 she published the book *Feminist Art* for Centauria publishers (also published in Germany, USA, Great Britain, Spain, France and Korea). In 2021 she published *Bauhaus, l'idea che ha cambiato il mondo* for Centauria. This book was also published in France, Germany, Great Britain and USA. Her most recent work is on Gertrude Stein and the Lost Generation: *Gertrude Stein e la generazione perduta*, first published in France for Seuil Éditions (subsequently translated into Italian and then published also in Germany and Spain). Valentina Grande lives and works in Bologna (Italy).

Eva Rossetti

Eva Rossetti graduated at Sapienza University, Rome, earning a degree in "Saperi e tecniche dello spettacolo," with a dissertation on the reinterpretation of the frontier myth in American independent cinema after 9/11. During her years spent at Sapienza University she also attended the Roman School of Comics, where she got her diploma in 2015. Since 2017 she has been the illustrator of graphic novel works such as: *Il mio Salinger*, *Feminist Art* and *Gertrude Stein e la generazione perduta*. All these works have been translated in different languages and were granted international circulation. She also illustrated several books specialised in the educational field, creating *ad hoc* comics for Pearson publishers in Italy. She created the comics illustration of *Generazione interrotta*, for the Revue Dessinée-Italia, reporting about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and its related social seclusion on the mental health of Italian adolescents. Eva lives and works in Rome (Italy).

Massimo Giuntoli

Massimo Giuntoli is a musician, composer, performer, urban creative and multimedial artist, based in Milan area. He started his activity at the end of the '70s. Clearly and self-declaredly indebted to, and highly influenced by, masters such as Frank Zappa, Aaron

Copland and the so called «Canterbury Scene», he developed his own musical language marked by an uninhibited flirtatious relationship with both the academic and highly heterogenous alternative codes. From the '80s on, he has taken part in several festivals, in Italy and abroad. As musician and performer, he has been involved in art projects that combine scenic action with multimedial installations *site specific*. In 2020 he composed original music of his own inspired by 19 pieces from Gertrude's Stein *Tender Buttons*. He is also the author of two books: *Cronache molkayane. Microracconti filopatafisici* (2022) and *La libreria invisibile. Stralci ed estratti da libri immaginari* (2023).

- **Afternoon: 14.30-17.30**

Catharine R. Stimpson, one of the pioneers in the study of women and gender, a founder of feminist criticism, is also known for her role as a public intellectual and her public service, which includes her wide-ranging writing on the humanities, liberal arts, and the university. As of September 1, 2022, she is Dean Emerita and Professor Emerita at New York University. Prof. Stimpson is the founding editor of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* (1974-80), the author of *Where The Meanings Are* (1988; 2014), a landmark collection of essays in feminist criticism, and the co-editor of the two-volume Library of America edition of the works of Gertrude Stein. She published over 150 monographs, essays, stories, and reviews in such places as *Transatlantic Review*, *Nation*, *New York Times Book Review*, *Critical Inquiry*, and *Boundary 2*, she is the editor of eight books and the author of a novel, *Class Notes* (1979, 1980), and has lectured at approximately 400 institutions and events in the United States and abroad. Her public service has included the chairpersonships of the New York State Council for the Humanities, the National Council for Research on Women, and the *Ms. Magazine* Board of Scholars. She was the President of the Modern Language Association (1990) and is now a member of the board of directors of several educational, philanthropic, and cultural organizations, including Scholars at Risk, whose board she chaired until December 2020, the Magna Charta Observatory, and New York Live Art. She was chair of the board of Creative Capital, the innovative arts organization, and is now co-chair of its National Advisory Council. Professor Stimpson holds honorary degrees from Uppsala College, Monmouth College, Bates College, Florida International University, the State University of New York at Albany, Hamilton College, the University of Arizona, Wheaton College, Hood College, Union College, Holy Cross College, and Santa Clara University.

Cristina Giorcelli is Professor Emerita of American Literature at the University of Rome Three. Her main fields of research are: mid- and late-nineteenth-century fiction (W. Irving, M. Fuller, H. James, S. Crane, K. Chopin, E. Wharton) and modernist poetry and prose (W. C. Williams, L. Zukofsky, D. Levertov, W. Cather, D. Barthelme). She is co-founder (1980) and co-director of the quarterly journal *Letterature d'America*. She has edited twelve volumes

on clothing and identity (*Abito e Identità*), out of which the University of Minnesota Press has published four volumes under the title, *Habits of Being*, co-edited with Paula Rabinowitz. Her last book is: *Botteghe Oscure e la letteratura statunitense* (2021).

Professor Giorcelli's work and dedication have shaped and continue to shape American Studies in Italy; she has been a major force in the establishment of scholarship on several American writers, including Henry James and Edith Wharton, ensuring their circulation through publication with highly respected Presses (Marsilio, for example). She was President of the Italian Association of American Studies (1989-1992), Vice-President of the European Association for American Studies (1994-2002), and is a formidable ambassador of American Literature in the world. In 2000, as witness to her exceptional contribution to culture, she was awarded the title of Commander of the Order of Merit by the then President of Italy.

Brenda Wineapple is the author of seven books, and her newest one, *Keeping the Faith: God, Democracy, and The Trial that Riveted a Nation*, about the 1925 Scopes trial, will be published next August. Her other books include *The Impeachers: The Trial of Andrew Johnson and the Dream of a Just Nation*, selected by the *New York Times* book critic as one of the 10 best nonfiction works of 2019; *Ecstatic Nation: Confidence, Crisis, and Compromise, 1848*; *White Heat: The Friendship of Emily Dickinson and Thomas Wentworth Higginson*, a National Book Critics Circle award finalist; *Hawthorne: A Life*, winner of the Ambassador Award, and of course *Sister Brother: Gertrude and Leo Stein*. A recipient of a Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Pushcart Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, two National Endowment Fellowships, and a National Endowment Public Scholars Award, this year she is a Fellow at the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers. Her essays and reviews regularly appear in such major publications such as *The New York Times Book Review* and *The New York Review of Books*, and she teaches at Columbia University in the School of the Arts writing program.

Francesca Wade is the author of *Square Haunting: Five Women, Freedom and London between the Wars* (Faber & Faber, 2020), which was shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize and longlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction. Her work proposes a form of biography centered on women's lives, on collectivity and community, on recovering hidden histories, and on challenging the scripts by which lives are lived and stories are told. She is a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University At Radcliffe, where she is completing her second book, "Gertrude Stein: An Afterlife," a new biography of Stein told through the story of her posthumous legacy. She will also begin work on a new project, exploring the intersecting lives and work of several women poets and activists in 1970s New York. She is a former editor of the literary quarterly the *White Review*, and her writing has appeared in *Granta*, the *London Review of Books*, the *New York Review of Books*, the *Paris Review*, and other publications.

Andrea Mariani

A. Mariani taught Anglo-American Literature and Language at the University of Rome La Sapienza (1975-1988) and at the Università Gabriele D'Annunzio, Chieti/Pescara (1988-2015), where he was Chairman of the Department of Literary and Linguistic Studies (2000-2006). He was President of the Italian Association for North American Studies (AISNA: 2010-2013) and Italian representative on the Board of the European Association of American Studies (EAAS: 2013-2016). He published on the classics of the 19th century (Poe, Whitman, Hawthorne, Melville, Dickinson, James) and several major poets of the 20th century (Stein, Bishop, Wilbur, Merrill, Merwin, Plath). Professor Mariani edited 8 volumes of the series "Riscritture dell'Eden" (2003-2015), on the function of the garden in the history of literature, language, culture, and the arts. He is a poet.

Hal Coase

Hal Coase is a PhD candidate in *co-tutela* La Sapienza University of Rome and University of Silesia, with a research project on the poetry of Barbara Guest and the afterlives of modernism in New York. His criticism has been published in *PN Review*, and academic work in *Text Matters*, *RIAS*, and *Revue française d'études américaines* and *Status Quaestionis* (forthcoming). His poetry has been published in *The White Review*, and anthologised by Carcanet Press (2020) and Prototype Press (2023). He has written extensively for the theatre in the UK, and his plays have been performed in the USA and Canada.
